

As an Independent voter, I am discouraged when the public air waves are used to promote the agenda of a broadcaster. Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a misuse of the airwaves. To truly serve the public, multiple points of view must be aired not just one because the 'public' consists of all of us. This misuse is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation, which many of us wrote to ask the FCC to oppose.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. When large companies control the airwaves it is essential that they be monitored to insure that we get more of what we need for our democracy and less of what serves their desire for money. Naturally, we want news and information about real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter, rather than what serves the agenda of the station owners or their advertisers.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. It is time for the FCC to serve the public interest by effectively monitoring the use of our airwaves and correcting the misuses promptly. Thank you.